

**MINUTES OF THE  
BUSINESS AND LABOR INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 19, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W125 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair  
Rep. Stephen D. Clark, House Chair  
Sen. John W. Hickman  
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups  
Rep. J. Stuart Adams  
Rep. Jackie Biskupski  
Rep. David Clark  
Rep. Carl W. Duckworth  
Rep. James A. Dunnigan  
Rep. Ben C. Ferry  
Rep. Craig A. Frank  
Rep. Neil A. Hansen  
Rep. Todd E. Kiser  
Rep. Curtis Oda  
Rep. Gordon E. Snow  
Rep. Scott L. Wyatt

**Members Excused:**

Sen. Ed Mayne  
Rep. Michael T. Morley

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Thomas V. Hatch

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Mark Steinagel, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Tracey Fredman, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hansen moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Dunnigan, Rep. Ferry, Rep. Frank, and Rep. Kiser were absent for the vote.

**2. Review of Potential Study Plan for the 2006 Interim Period**

Chair Jenkins commented that the goal of the cochairs during the 2006 interim is to spend more time studying in depth fewer items.

Staff distributed copies of "Prioritization of Study Items," as contained in the mailing packet, and "Items in Addition to the MSR Provided by Relevant Agencies Related to the 2006 Interim." Ms. Owen asked that committee members submit their prioritized list to staff when completed.

Rep. Oda said he would like the Committee to study issues pertaining to alcoholic beverage control.

**3. Health Insurance Mandate Reports**

Ms. Owen distributed and reviewed "Review of Mandatory Obligations on Health Insurers: Status of Review," as contained in the mailing packet.

Dr. Jeffrey Hawley, Research Analyst, Utah Insurance Department, responded to questions from the Committee about the cost of insurance mandates.

Mr. Kelly Atkinson, Executive Director, Utah Health Insurance Association, commented on the affordability of health insurance and the impact of the cost of mandates. Chair Clark asked Mr. Atkinson to provide the Committee with a list of mandates that are burdening small businesses, suggestions on what the Committee could do to help, and studies he thought would be helpful to the Committee on this issue. Mr. Atkinson agreed to provide information to the Committee and responded to questions.

#### **4. Health Care Costs for Businesses**

##### **A. Background**

Ms. Owen distributed and presented "Business Health Care Costs General Background."

Commissioner Kent Mitchie, Utah Insurance Department, responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Neal Gooch, Deputy Commissioner, Utah Insurance Department, discussed the requirements for an insurance company that wants to do business in the state.

##### **B. Consumer Access to Health Care Provider Charges**

Ms. Owen distributed and reviewed "Transparency and Health Care Selected Highlights"; "National Conference of State Legislatures: State Legislation Relating to Disclosure of Hospital and Health Charges"; H.B. 246, "Health Care Cost and Quality Data," 2006 General Session; H.B. 203, "Medical Billing Requirements," 2006 General Session; and H.B. 301, "Consumer Access to Health Care Provider Charges," 2006 General Session.

Rep. Hutchings distributed and commented on "Value in Health Care: Must Better Care Cost More?" and "Kentucky Hospital Charge Information." He responded to committee questions. Chair Clark asked Rep. Hutchings to continue to work on these issues.

Ms. Jennifer Cannady, Assistant Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Utah, said that Regence BlueCross Blue Shield of Utah supports transparency and would like the state to consider addressing the issue.

##### **C. Health Savings Accounts**

Ms. Owen distributed and reviewed "Health Savings Accounts."

#### **5. Other Items/Adjourn**

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.